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Promotion and protection of human rights: implementation of human rights instruments

Programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011

Revised estimates resulting from the increase in the number of members of the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment pursuant to article 5 of the Optional Protocol

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General on the revised estimates of the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment resulting from the increase in the number of members, pursuant to article 5 of the Optional Protocol (A/65/500). During its consideration of the report, the Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General, who provided additional information and clarification.

2. As indicated in the report of the Secretary-General, in accordance with article 5 of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, after the fiftieth ratification of or accession to the Protocol, the number of the members of the Subcommittee shall increase to 25. The Secretary-General, in paragraph 23.34 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011 (A/64/6 (Sect. 23)), informed the General Assembly that the Subcommittee would expand to 25 experts when the Optional Protocol entered into force with 50 States parties, which was expected to occur during the biennium 2010-2011.

3. The estimated total net requirements in this connection comprise: (a) an amount of $2,233,500 for 2011; and (b) an amount of $5,474,000 for the biennium 2012-2013.

4. For the biennium 2010-2011, the total additional requirements of $2,233,500 for the year 2011 would be met from the provisions of the contingency fund of the programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011, as summarized in paragraphs 6-10 below.

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5. For the biennium 2012-2013, total estimated requirements of $5,474,000 under: (a) section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management ($3,079,200); (b) section 23, Human rights ($2,336,000); and (c) section 28E, Administration, Geneva ($58,800) would be considered in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013.

6. Under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, estimated requirements for 2011 of $1,164,600 for the Division of Conference Management of the United Nations Office at Geneva are for interpretation services for 30 meetings and documentation services for 3,960 estimated standard pages. The increase in membership of the Subcommittee would also result in an increase in workload primarily as a result of the inclusion of three new working languages, Arabic, French and Russian, in addition to the current two working languages, English and Spanish. It is also expected to have the pre- and in-session documentation translated into Arabic, English, French, Russian and Spanish, while the post-sessional records will continue to be issued in the six official languages. In addition, the Committee was informed that the confidential nature of some of the documents related to the Optional Protocol precludes the use of external contractual translation and therefore they must be processed in-house.

7. Cognizant of the dual challenges of increased documentation workload and the confidentiality requirements, the Secretary-General indicates that the Division of Conference Management of the United Nations Office at Geneva has analysed its overall documentation workload as regards confidentiality and deadline restrictions. He is proposing to increase the use of contractual translation for some documentation that does not have confidentiality requirements and deadline restrictions. This would allow for the realignment of the Division's in-house capacity to process documentation related to the Optional Protocol. The expanded use of contractual translation is estimated at $700,000 per annum.

8. Further under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, the Secretary-General proposes to establish, effective 1 January 2011, four new posts (2 P-5 and 2 P-4) at an estimated cost of $464,600 for 2011. These additional resources are required to provide sufficient quality control capacity, in line with the extended use of contractual translation, and to strengthen the revision function. It is envisaged that with this proposal, the documentation related to the Optional Protocol could be processed internally in a cost-effective manner as well as to meet the requirements related to quality, confidentiality and deadline restrictions.

9. Under section 23, Human rights, the expanded Subcommittee would give rise to additional requirements estimated at $996,800 in 2011, as follows:

(a) Travel, daily subsistence allowance and terminal expenses for attendance at three sessions of the Subcommittee in Geneva for 15 additional members as mandated by the Optional Protocol ($369,500);

(b) Travel, daily subsistence allowance and terminal expenses of members for country, advisory and follow-up visits ($160,400);

(c) Provision for the establishment of three new posts (1 P-3, 1 P-2 and 1 General Service (GS) Other level (OL) to provide support to the Subcommittee

($241,600) in view of the additional proposed visits by the Subcommittee (see A/65/500, paras. 22-25);

(d) Travel of staff of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to accompany members of the Subcommittee on country, advisory and follow-up visits ($105,500);

(e) General operating expenses (rental of vehicles, communications, rental of office premises and other miscellaneous services) ($119,800).

10. Under section 28E, Administration, Geneva, an estimated amount of $72,100 is required for recurring and non-recurrent costs associated with the seven proposed posts for establishment in 2011 (see paras. 8-9 above).

11. With respect to the proposal of the Secretary-General to establish two P-5 and two P-4 posts for quality control and revision functions in the Division of Conference Management of the United Nations Office at Geneva, the Advisory Committee recalls the concerns it raised regarding the adequacy of staffing levels to address the overall conference servicing requirements of Geneva, and in particular, the Human Rights Council. The Committee also reiterates that the Department should explore opportunities for sharing the additional documentation workload among all four conference-servicing duty stations (see A/64/7, para. I.89).

12. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the six P-2 associate translator posts provided for in General Assembly resolution 64/244 have not adequately addressed the needs of the Division. The Committee was further informed that these posts have proven difficult to fill. **The Advisory Committee recommends the establishment of two P-5 and two P-4 temporary posts within existing resources to meet the immediate needs of the Division and to be reported in the context of the second performance report. Furthermore, the Committee recommends that the long-term conference servicing requirements of the Division, including the continued need for the four temporary posts, be addressed in the context of the proposed programme budget for 2012-2013.**

13. **With regard to the proposal to establish one P-3, one P-2 and one GS (OL) under section 23, Human rights, the Advisory Committee recommends that one P-3 and one GS (OL) be established as temporary posts to be accommodated within the section's available resources and reported in the context of the second performance report. The Advisory Committee recommends that the ongoing requirement to establish these new posts be considered in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013.**

14. **The Advisory Committee believes that the proposed amount of $700,000 for contractual translation under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, should be accommodated within the resources appropriated under the programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011 and reported in the context of the second performance report.**

15. **The Advisory Committee recommends approval of the proposals of the Secretary-General (see A/65/500, paras. 37-40), subject to its observations and recommendations in paragraphs 12-14 above.**